

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS:

In the Office Action dated December 20, 2006, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-14 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Banatre (USPG 2002/0028683). Respectfully, we disagree with the rejection.

Regarding the comments in the Office Action and the discussion with the Examiner on February 15, 2007, as instructed, a complete mark up copy of the submitted amendments in response to the prior Office Action dated July 24, 2006 is submitted with this Response to Final Office Action. Additionally, as per the discussion with the Examiner, the prior amendments submitted in response to the Non-Final Office Action dated July 24, 2006 Office were entered into the record, however the Examiner has indicated that this resubmitted complete markup with the reference numbers shown and stricken through are necessary for printing purposes at the USPTO. The applicant thanks the Examiner for the call and the clarification.

Banatre discloses a system in which a user portable set communicates with a mobile station and an access interface to access a context-sensitive service that is adapted according to a position of the user portable set and/or identity of a user of a portable set (par.[0066] and [0070]).

Claim 1 recites:

A method for authenticating a user of an electronic device in a plurality of usage contexts the user is able to use with the electronic device, the method comprising: maintaining a centralized register of the usage contexts available for the electronic device and pre-stored user profiles, each user profile being associated with at least one usage context, the electronic device entering a particular one of said plurality of usage contexts, said particular one being a selected usage context, the electronic device identifying said entering, selecting from the centralized register a user profile in response to said identifying, and performing authentication in the selected usage context by using data from the selected user profile.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claim 1, stating each element of

claim 1 and then associating the paragraphs [0027] to [0031] in Banatre. The applicant respectfully disagrees. In the solution disclosed by Banatre, there is a process phase that is planned to announce to a context-sensitive service that a user of a portable set is present within a certain perimeter, and the content of the context-sensitive service is able to be adapted according to the position and/or identity of the user (paragraph [0029]). Further, in the solution disclosed by Banatre a remote server communicates to the portable set all the relevant service identifiers that match a selection request and from which the user selects the service identifier of his choice (paragraph [0031]). The applicant contends that determining whether the user is present within the perimeter (i.e. detecting the presence) is clearly different than authenticating the user in a usage context.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner states in response to a previously filed Response to Office Action that in Banatre, "The presences is based upon a request/answer type communication at which time a user enters identifying information that serves to authenticate the user provided that the requested access is permissible to that user. Permissible usage (context) is determined by mapping user requests to identifying information, where only corresponding requirements are granted access," (see [0029], lines 10-13; [0031]), (where the underlining was added to the above citation). In the reference as cited, Banatre merely states that "the presence of the user within the perimeter considered, the service being capable of establishing interaction with the user portable set adapting the content of the said service to the context of the user, thanks to the user identifier and perimeter identifier pair," (par. [0029]). The applicant contends that neither the statement by the Examiner nor the reference as cited in the Office Action support the rejection of claim 1.

As disclosed in Banatre, "a first phase for acquisition of the service identifier Sid and the perimeter identifier Pid is envisaged after a short-range radio frequency communication ... established between the portable set Ui of the user coming into the perimeter Pi and the nearest mobile station SMi," and "This phase thus allows the acquisition by the portable set of the perimeter identity Pid and the service identity Sid by a communication 2 established between the portable set Ui and the mobile

station SMi nearest the latter” (par. [0068]). Further, in Banatre, “The context-sensitive service Si applies any processing using the identity of the user Uid and/or of his location Pid and offers thus context-sensitively adapted service characteristics,” (par. [0070]). The applicant contends that this “interaction with the user portable set adapting the content of the said service to the context of the user,” as disclosed in Banatre does not disclose or suggest “performing authentication in the selected usage context by using data from the selected user profile,” as claim 1 recites in part.

In Banatre, the “user identifier Uid is attributed for each user portable set in order to identify the said user,” (par. [0064]). There is no disclosure in Banatre that the “user identifier Uid” is further used for “selecting from the centralized register a user profile in response to said identifying” or “performing authentication in the selected usage context by using data from the selected user profile,” as in claim 1. Rather, Banatre merely discloses that “the context-sensitive service Si is adapted according to user identifier Uid and/or the identifier of the perimeter Pid, in which the user portable set is found,” (par. [0065]). Therefore, although the applicant does not agree that Banatre discloses or suggests any elements of claim 1, even if Banatre is “identifying” the user using the Uid on the portable set, Banatre still does not disclose or suggest “selecting from the centralized register a user profile in response to said identifying, and performing authentication in the selected usage context by using data from the selected user profile,” as in claim 1.

As stated above, in Banatre, “The context-sensitive service Si applies any processing using the identity of the user Uid and/or of his location Pid and offers thus context-sensitively adapted service characteristics” (par. [0070]). In addition, Banatre discloses that “Several services may be associated with one perimeter,” and “It is sufficient for this that the service identifier Sid associated with a chosen perimeter points to a service itself allowing access to several services,” (par. [0075]). However, determining which of the service identifiers match the selection request is clearly a different thing than authenticating the user in a usage context. For at least the reasons stated, Banatre does not disclose or suggest “the electronic device identifying said entering, selecting from the centralized register a user profile in response to said

identifying, and performing authentication in the selected usage context by using data from the selected user profile,” as in claim 1.

Furthermore, at least for the reasons stated above, it appears evident to the applicant that Banatre is neither “maintaining a centralized register of the usage contexts available for the electronic device and pre-stored user profiles,” nor “selecting from the centralized register a user profile in response to said identifying, and performing authentication in the selected usage context by using data from the selected user profile,” as in claim 1. Therefore, the applicant respectfully asks the Examiner to allow claim 1 or provide clarification in a non-final Office Action, for as it appears, Banatre as cited in the Office Action does not disclose the above referenced exemplary embodiments of the claimed invention. Therefore, for at least the reasons stated, Banatre does not disclose or suggest claim 1, and claim 1 should be allowed.

In the rejection of claims 2, the Examiner cites Banatre paragraph [0027]. The applicant can find no mention in the reference as cited that discloses or suggests claim 2. Claim 2 recites in part “wherein the selected user profile comprises at least one of the following: a user key, a user certificate.” Banatre does not disclose or suggest “a user key, (or) a user certificate,” as in claim 2. Furthermore, for at least the reasons already stated above, Banatre does not disclose a “selected user profile,” as in claim 2. Further, it is noted that there is no explanation in the Office Action of the rejection other than the reference to paragraph [0027]. In the paragraph cited, Banatre discloses “a phase is planned for acquiring the service identifier and the perimeter identifier after a short-range radio frequency communication established between the portable set of the user entering within the perimeter and the nearest mobile station, and a phase is planned for application of the context-sensitive service so known by the service identifier after a bi-directional communication established between the user portable set and the access interface,” (par. [0027]). The disclosure of Banatre does not teach wherefrom a correct user profile (e.g. an authentication or digital signing key, or an access certificate) is obtained after selecting a context-sensitive service. In the solution recited in the independent claims of the present application said user profile

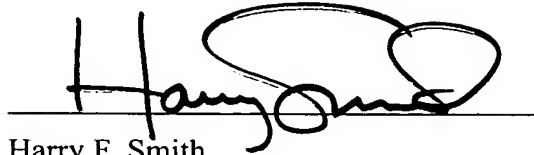
can be selected from the centralized register that contains pre-stored user profiles, each of them being associated with at least one usage context. Therefore, the applicant can find no support for the rejection of claim 2 in the reference as cited. Thus, the applicant contends that Banatre does not disclose or suggest claim 2, and claim 2 should be allowed.

In addition, as the independent claims 7, 13 and 14 also incorporate similar features as claim 1, for at least the reasons above, claims 7, 13 and 14 are not anticipated by Banatre. Therefore, all the claims 1, 7, 13 and 14 should be allowed. Furthermore, for at least the reason that claims 2-6 depend from claim 1, and claims 8-12 depend from claim 7; the claims 2-6, and 8-12 are not anticipated by Banatre. Moreover, as the claims 3, 10, and 11 recite similar features of claim 2, for at least the reasons stated, Banatre does not disclose or suggest claims 3, 10, and 11, and all the claims 2, 3, 10, and 11 should be allowed. Thus, for at least these reasons all the claims 1-14 of the present invention should be allowed.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to review the claims in view of the above arguments, to withdraw the rejections and to pass claims 1-14 to issue. The undersigned representative welcomes the opportunity to resolve any matters that may remain, formal or otherwise, via teleconference at the Examiner's discretion.

S.N. 10/608,235  
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2/20/2007

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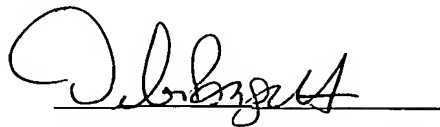
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